

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial No. 09/830,388

Inventor: Collier et al.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An offshore structure comprising:
 - a base,
 - a substantially rectangular deck having a width and a length, with the width being defined between two substantially parallel side edges and the length being defined between two additional side edges, and
 - a plurality of legs extending substantially perpendicular to the base between the base and the deck, wherein the plurality of legs are attached to the base outboard of said parallel side edges so as to be spaced a distance greater than the width of the deck such that the deck is positioned entirely between opposing ones of the plurality of legs, while the length of the deck is greater than a distance between adjacent ones of the plurality of legs, and
 - a connection is provided directly between an inwardly facing face of each of the plurality of legs leg and a respective one of the parallel side edges of the deck such that the deck is fixed to the plurality of legs.
2. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said leg comprises a vertically extending chord at each corner thereof.
3. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein each said chord is circular in cross section.

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4. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said leg is triangular.
5. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the connection between each said leg and the deck comprises a shear plate, having a top and a bottom, attached substantially vertically between the deck and a respective said chord.
6. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein the connection further comprises a stiffening plate extending through a diameter of the chord, wherein a first side edge of said shear plate is welded to said stiffening plate and said shear plate and said stiffening plate are substantially aligned.
7. (original) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the stiffening plate extends over a greater length of the leg chord than the shear plate.
8. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the inboard end of said shear plate is welded between two plates extending outwardly from the deck edge.
9. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein the connection further comprises a metal coupling plate, having inboard and outboard ends, attached horizontally between the deck and the chord.
10. (original) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the coupling plate has a cut-out in an edge facing the leg chord, such that a part of the periphery of the leg chord is held within the cut-out.
11. (original) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 10, wherein the cut-out is elliptical in shape.

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12. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein a horizontal web is attached to the deck and the coupling plate is butt welded thereto.

13. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein plate stiffeners extending from the inboard end to the outboard end are provided in the coupling plate.

14. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the connection further comprises an additional coupling plate, said coupling plate and said additional coupling plate are provided at the top and the bottom of the shear plate respectively.

15. (original) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 14, wherein each coupling plate is welded to the shear plate at the join between the plates.

16. (previously amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the connection is formed between the deck and two said leg chords located at either end of the inwardly facing face of the lattice leg.

17 - 38. (previously canceled)

39. (previously presented) An offshore structure comprising a base, a deck, and a plurality of lattice legs extending between the base and the deck, wherein the legs are arranged outboard of the deck and a connection is provided between an inwardly facing face of each said leg and the deck;

wherein each said leg comprises a vertically extending leg chord at each corner thereof;

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wherein the connection between each said leg and the deck comprises a shear plate attached substantially vertically between the deck and a respective said leg chord; and

wherein the connection further comprises a stiffening plate extending through a diameter of the leg chord, wherein a first side edge of said shear plate is welded to said stiffening plate and said shear plate and said stiffening plate are substantially aligned.

40. (previously presented) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 39, wherein the stiffening plate extends over a greater length of the leg chord than the shear plate.

41. (previously presented) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 40, wherein the inboard end of said shear plate is welded between two plates extending outwardly from the deck edge.

42. (previously presented) An offshore structure comprising a base, a deck, and a plurality of lattice legs extending between the base and the deck, wherein the legs are arranged outboard of the deck and a connection is provided between an inwardly facing face of each said leg and the deck;

wherein each said leg comprises a vertically extending leg chord at each corner thereof;

wherein the connection between each said leg and the deck comprises a shear plate attached substantially vertically between the deck and a respective said leg chord;

wherein the connection further comprises a metal coupling plate attached horizontally between the deck and the leg chord; and

wherein the coupling plate further includes a cut-out in an edge facing the leg chord, such that a part of the periphery of the leg chord is held within the cut-out.

43. (previously presented) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 42, wherein the cut-out is elliptical in shape.